ARKANSAS

BROILER HATCHERY

Released: March 19, 2003

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

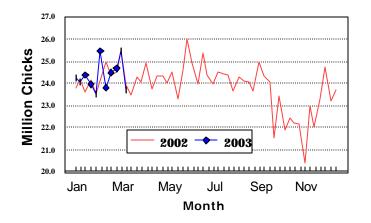
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 23.7 million during the week ending March 15, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week in 2002, and down 7 percent from the previous week, and included 2.1 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 15, 2003 were 267.9 million, up slightly from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.6 million, up fractionally from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 2 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.4 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 83.2 percent.

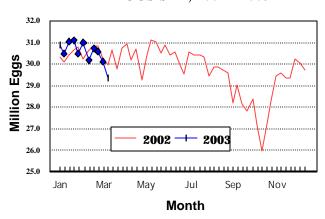
Arkansas hatcheries set 29.4 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending March 15, 2003, down 2 percent from the same period last year, and down 3 percent from the previous week.

	NET PLACEMENTS			CHIC	KS HATC	HED	EGGS SET			
Week Ending	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	
	1,0	00		1,0	000		1,000			
Feb. 8	24,115	25,475	106	24,842	25,519	103	30,232	30,994	103	
Feb. 15	24,984	23,806	95	25,204	25,709	102	30,627	30,194	99	
Feb. 22	24,382	24,509	101	25,438	25,149	99	30,825	30,762	100	
Mar. 1	24,553	24,680	101	25,023	25,645	102	30,859	30,603	99	
Mar. 8	25,518	25,491	100	25,433	25,042	98	30,238	30,133	100	
Mar. 15	23,918	23,738	99	25,522	25,582	100	29,964	29,371	98	

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending					Week Ending						1/
STATE	23-Feb	02-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	%	09-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb	02-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	%
Alabama	28,185 *	27,458	27,920	28,229	98	21,390	20,696	21,200	20,287	21,816	21,479	98
ARKANSAS	30,762	30,603	30,133	29,371	98	25,475	23,806	24,509	24,680	25,491	23,738	99
Delaware	3,295	3,489	3,539 *	3,765	106	4,698	5,539	5,114	5,171	4,688 *	4,570	87
Florida	1,598	1,627 *	1,620 *	1,532	67	1,393	1,739	1,491	1,752	1,798 *	1,668	73
Georgia	31,336 *	31,708	31,646 *	30,759	98	25,425	25,761	25,415	25,634 *	24,378 *	24,918	96
Kentucky	6,266 *	6,317 *	6,555 *	6,200	98	5,315	5,366	5,491	5,503	5,204 *	5,233	94
Maryland	9,351	9,371	10,110	10,053	100	6,265	5,601	5,732	5,692	5,242 *	6,260	107
Mississippi	18,749 *	18,884	19,097	18,867	101	15,479	15,967	15,757	15,534	15,579	15,859	99
N. Carolina	18,728 *	19,091	18,634	18,588	96	14,439	14,217	14,011	14,332	14,199	14,729	96
Oklahoma	6,632	6,373	6,465	6,672	102	4,259	4,415	4,091	4,840	3,634	4,458	94
Pennsylvania	3,136	3,427 *	3,505 *	3,592	90	2,482	2,551	2,523	2,422 *	2,501 *	2,373	85
S. Carolina	4,823	4,857	4,814 *	4,842	97	3,607	3,534	3,708	3,134	4,812	4,430	112
Texas	14,801	14,810	14,750	14,743	96	11,902	12,337	11,869	11,657	11,952	12,373	102
Virginia	6,562	6,720	6,711	6,632	100	5,617	5,612	5,286	5,847	5,854	5,334	93
CA,LA,MO,TN,WV	20,275	20,606	20,655 *	20,472	103	17,141	18,703	18,209	16,980	17,580 *	19,974	96
Total 2003	204,499 *	205,341 *	206,154 *	204,317		164,887	165,844	164,406	163,465 *	164,728 *	167,396	
Total 2002	211,110	210,211	209,711	208,001		165,373	167,095	170,461	169,215	171,686	172,382	
% Prev. Year	97	98	98	98		100	99	96	97	96	97	
Approximate Marketing Date 2003						30-Mar	06-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	04-May	

^{*} Revised.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 204 million eggs during the week ending March 15, 2003. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 15, 2003. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 15, 2003 were 1.81 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

^{1/} Current week as percent of the same week last year.